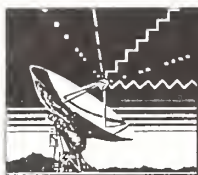


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Q 521. A87F3



Broadcasters Letter

United States Department of Agriculture • Office of Communications • Washington, DC 20250-1300

Emergency
Program

Letter No. 2760

April 12, 1996

CATASTROPHIC CROP INSURANCE SALES REOPENED -- Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman announced (April 10) that producers of spring planted crops have until May 2, to obtain catastrophic risk protection coverage. Glickman said, "Given the diminished safety net in the new farm bill, producers will need crop insurance now more than ever to secure credit and manage risk." The reopened sales period for catastrophic risk protection coverage only applies to spring planted crops with sales closing dates of January 1996 or later and for spring-planted grains with earlier sales closing dates. Glickman said this additional opportunity to buy crop insurance may be particularly useful for producers who are changing their crop mix under the new farm bill. The farm bill also changes the requirement that producers obtain crop insurance on all crops of economic significance, called "linkage." Beginning with all 1996 crops, producers are not required to obtain crop insurance, provided the producer signs a waiver regarding the right to receive any emergency crop loss assistance on any insurable crop, excluding emergency loans. **Contact: Dann Stuart (202) 690-0474.**

GRAIN MOVEMENTS THROUGH CANADA RESUME -- Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman announced (April 4) the successful conclusion of technical discussions with Canada on the issue of U.S. grain moving through Canada. The negotiations held (April 3) between the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Canadian officials have resulted in an agreement that will allow continued movement of U.S. wheat through the St. Lawrence Seaway for export to third-country markets. This issue surfaced because of the detection of Karnal bunt in limited quantities of wheat in the southwestern United States. Glickman said, "Specifically, for durum wheat, Canada has agreed to the immediate resumption of in-transit shipments." In-transit shipments are those shipments that either do not stop at Canadian ports or those that are simply topped-up with Canadian grain en route to Third Country markets. For durum wheat which is transshipped through Canadian elevators, Canada has agreed to reassess its prohibition based on additional survey and sampling data to be provided by the United States. **Contact: Tom Amontree (202) 720-4623.**

IMMEDIATE CRP EARLY OUT ANNOUNCED -- Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman announced (April 5) implementation of a 1996 Farm Bill provision that allows producers to end their CRP contracts early on less environmentally sensitive land. Glickman said that CRP contracts entered into before January 1, 1995 that have been in effect for at least five years will be eligible for early termination except those contracts applying to certain environmentally-sensitive lands. Approved contract terminations on eligible land will become effective 60 days after the producer's request is received by the local Farm Service Agency office. Producers seeking to make their CRP acreage eligible for 1996 Market Transition Payments, created by the 1996 Farm Bill, must file the request to terminate the CRP contract by May 31 in order for the contract to terminate before the August 1, 1996 statutory deadline for entering into Production Flexibility Contracts. **Contact: Dann Stuart (202) 690-0474.**

SECRETARY GLICKMAN ON COMMERCE SECRETARY RON BROWN -- Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman said, "The country mourns the loss of a great leader. While Ron Brown will be remembered foremost for his pioneering work in civil rights and in promoting U.S. business abroad, he should also be remembered as a valued, dear friend of agriculture and of rural America. As part of his trade missions, Ron Brown was relentless in his work to tear down unfair barriers and open foreign markets to U.S. agricultural goods." Glickman said, "Ron Brown was also deeply committed to making sure no one was left behind as America leaped into the 21st Century. For Ron, this translated into a strong commitment to promoting the information age -- not just in the big cities where it has largely caught on, but in America's rural communities where it has not. Long before Ron Brown ever got involved with foreign trade missions or the information superhighway, he was an eloquent and effective voice against hunger." Secretary Glickman said, I share that commitment with Ron, and I will continue USDA's efforts to end hunger in honor of his legacy." **Contact: Tom Amontree (202) 720-4623.**

SWIFT CANNED HAMS RECALLED NATIONWIDE -- Swift-Eckrich, a Downers Grove, Ill. food processing firm, is voluntarily recalling about 15,000 pounds of its canned hams distributed nationwide because some of the product was underprocessed and may have the potential of causing serious illness if eaten. The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced (April 10) that all 5-pound cans of "Swift Premium Fully Cooked Ham, Water Added" with the code "EST 543 6066" printed in black ink on the side of the can are being recalled. "EST 543" appears inside the USDA inspection seal on the product label. Only the 5-pound size of this product is being recalled. Other sizes are not affected by the recall. USDA was notified of the problem when the company discovered that some of the product already shipped to stores may have been undercooked. Consumers with questions about the recall may phone the toll-free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-800-535-4555. The Hotline can be reached from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Eastern Daylight Time) Monday through Friday. **Contact: Steve Lombardi (202) 720-9113.**

AGREEMENT ON FIRST AND LAST TIMBER SALES ANNOUNCED -- Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman announced (April 6) that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service had reached an agreement that will halt the logging of the first and last old-growth timber sales on the Umpqua National Forest in Oregon. The agreement by Umpqua National Forest Supervisor Don Ostby and Allyn Ford, vice president of Scott Timber Company, states that Scott Timber voluntarily will accept alternative timber in a less environmentally-sensitive area in exchange for the first and last timber sales. The agreement culminates weeks of efforts by the Forest Service to find a way to implement a workable solution that protects the first and last sales. The first and last timber sales are within the South Umpqua River drainage on the Tiller Ranger District. Providing alternative timber will reduce impacts to the habitat of coho salmon, cutthroat trout and winter trout, as well as the northern spotted owl. **Contact: Cheryl Walters (541) 957-3259.**

HEALTHFUL EATING PATTERNS -- Researchers at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion have identified a pattern linking healthful eating habits with specific age groups. Using food consumption survey data and the Center's recently-developed Healthy Eating Index, researchers found that healthful eating is at its highest levels during early childhood and among adults ages 55 and older. The study used food consumption data from USDA's Continuing Survey of Food Intakes by Individuals, 1989-90. **Contact: John Webster (202) 418-2312.**

EDITED BY LESLIE PARKER

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #2028 -- President Clinton has signed into law the new Farm Bill which changes a 60-year-old system of farm supports. Gary Crawford has covered the Farm Bill gavel to gavel and provides this insight along with a number of experts. **(Weekly cassette -- five minute documentary).**

CONSUMER TIME #1506 -- New Farm Bill brings aid to rural areas. Reducing chemicals on shrubs and ornamentals at the nursery. Alternatives to fancy household cleaners. Universal telecommunication services. A substitute for fat that helps to lower cholesterol. **(Weekly cassette -- consumer features).**

AGRITAPE #2019 -- IPM scouting. Excessive loss of organic matter in the soil. The alternative crop. CRP early out. Crop insurance sales. **(Weekly cassette -- news features).**

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE -- Friday, April 19, cattle on feed; livestock slaughter. Monday, April 22, U.S. agricultural trade update. Tuesday, April 23, weekly weather and crop report; livestock, dairy and poultry outlook. Wednesday, April 24, Europe update. Thursday, April 25, vegetable and specialties outlook report. **These are USDA reports we know about in advance. Our newslines carries many stories every day which are not listed in this lineup.**

USDA RADIO NEWSLINES (202) 488-8358 or 8359.

COMREX ENCODED (202) 720-2545

Material changed at 5:00 p.m., ET, each working day and 10:30 a.m. on crop report days.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

FEATURES: A provision of the 1996 Farm Bill allows producers to end their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts early on less environmentally sensitive lands. Eric Parsons reports.

ACTUALITIES: Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman announces crop sign-up dates. Ellen Haas, under secretary for food, nutrition and consumer services, comments on the latest food stamp figures. Ken Ackerman, USDA's crop insurance manager, describes changes the 1996 Farm Bill made to the Federal Crop Insurance Program. Ackerman also comments on the possibility of expansion of pilot revenue protection programs.

SATELLITE COORDINATES FOR TV NEWSFEEDS: Thursdays from 3:45 to 4:00 p.m. ET, Telstar 402R (located at 89 degrees West), Transponder 13, Vertical Polarity, Downlink Frequency 3960 MHZ.

****Note:** Effective May 2-September 26, the satellite newsfeed coordinates will change to: Telstar 401(97 degrees West), Transponder 7, Vertical Polarity, Downlink Frequency 3840 MHZ.

Comments and suggestions are welcome regarding USDA broadcast services. Call Larry Quinn, (202)720-6072, or write to: Room 1618-S, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250-1300. Internet E-mail: LQuinn@USDA.GOV.

OFF MIKE

SNOW CONTINUES...in the early days of April in many states. **Bob Bosold** (WAXX, Eau Claire, WI) says this has been one of their worst winters in almost 20 years. Schools which haven't usually closed have been out seven or eight times and even a local university shut down. Bob says there is local concern about the weather warming up too fast and creating excessive runoff. Moisture is plentiful and some locations are wet six feet down. Cold temperatures and wetness are delaying planting. No potatoes are in and vegetable crops are behind. Farmers having "old crop" corn are watching the market and speculating on when to sell. Market for cull dairy cows and calves is not even yielding bids on some lots. Farmers are being billed for market costs when some are not even selling the animals. Bob is in his 20th year of farm broadcasting with his station.

EARLY PLANTING...has begun in corn and soybean growing areas. **Hartzell Bruno** (WCVS/WFMB, Springfield, IL) says early indicators show there may be a 10-12 percent increase in corn and soybean acreage in his area, but there doesn't appear to be much change in cropping patterns. Small farm hog production seems to be dwindling fast in his area although there are few large operations nearby. A major topic of concern to both farmers and consumers there is water quality. Because of increased urbanization in his area, Hartzell has changed his format of reporting agricultural news. He says he uses more of a consumer education approach in describing what the farmer is doing and why.

EXTENSION COUNCIL...in Dunklin County, Missouri, has a farm broadcaster who was elected to serve. **Hugh Robinson** (KTMO, Kennett, MO) gained recognition for this position from his promotion of extension activities through public service announcements and was added to the Leader's Honor Role last year for this support.



LARRY A. QUINN, Director
Video, Teleconference and Radio Center

Broadcasters Letter

United States Department of Agriculture
Office of Communications
Room 1618-S
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